

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: EZUMI, et al.

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD, AND METHOD
FOR MANUFACTURING CAR BODY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 28, 2002

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination
thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph between the title and the
heading "FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

--This application is a Divisional application of application Serial No.
09/915,354, filed July 27, 2001.--

JULY 2002 - 2003 EDITION

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their specification, prior to examination of the above-identified application, to set forth a prior application being relied upon under 35 USC 120 in the above-identified application, consistent with the requirements of 35 USC 120. Clearly, this amendment to the specification does not add new matter to the application.

Entry of the present amendment, and examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 648.40349VX3) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP


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CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 28, 2002

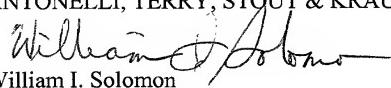
Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 119 and 37 CFR 1.55, Applicants
hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No.
2001-009035, filed January 17, 2001.

A certified copy of the above-identified Japanese Patent Application was
submitted on July 27, 2001, in prior application Serial No. 09/915,354, filed
July 27, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

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